

THE SIMPLE FACTS...

Each year in the UK around 1,600 farm buildings and 85,000 acres of grassland are destroyed by fire. Around 40% of these fires are started deliberately, many as acts of vandalism. Others are due to carelessness. A serious fire on a farm can affect the financial stability of even the best run business.



Your responsibilities by law...

Fire safety legislation applies to all farm buildings where people work, including packing sheds, milking parlours, barns, holiday lets and farmhouses used for providing bed and breakfast.

If you employ five or more people, you are required by law to carry out a fire risk assessment of your farm buildings and record the findings.

For more information on fire safety, visit
www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

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**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



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FARM FIRE SAFETY

Protect your land from arson and accidental fire

www.northyorksfire.gov.uk



Take action against arson...

Isolated locations, open boundaries and readily ignitable hay and straw stacks make farms an easy target for arson. Some simple precautions can substantially reduce the risk of attack:

- Remove hay and straw from fields as soon as possible after harvesting and store:
 - Separate from other buildings, particularly those housing fuel, agrochemicals and machinery.
 - In stacks of reasonable size, spaced at least 10 metres apart.
 - Separate from livestock housing.
- Install perimeter fencing, lighting and intruder sensors and keep these well maintained.
- Maintain the security of out-buildings.
- Replace or re-site security and warning notices.
- Store petrol, diesel and other fuels in secure areas and padlock storage tank outlets.
- Keep fertilisers and pesticides under lock and key.
- Dispose of refuse safely and on a regular basis.



Additional fire safety tips...

- Keep fire fighting equipment in good working order.
- Control smoking and hot working (work associated with welding/blow lamps etc).
- Keep farm machinery chaff free, serviced and in good condition.
- Prepare a fire action plan and make sure all farm workers know what to do. Ensure that escape routes and passages are kept free from any stored materials or equipment at all times.
- Try to have a tractor with machinery free, to cut a fire break should the need arise.
- Have a full water bowser or tank in close proximity when harvesting.
- Regularly check and maintain open water supplies for fire fighting.

Accidental fires...

As well as taking preventative measures against deliberate acts of arson, be aware that accidental fires can be caused by:

- Faulty or poor electrical wiring or equipment.
- A lit cigarette butt thrown from a passing vehicle in close proximity to fields of standing crops.
- Glass bottles left lying around in grass or woodland – in warm dry weather the sun's rays can be concentrated and focused by the glass, causing a fire.

If there is a fire...

- Call the Fire & Rescue Service without delay and provide: full address of the premises, directions if its location is not obvious, any local landmark such as a church or other well known reference point and an OS 6 figure grid reference if you can.
- Only attempt to fight the fire if it is safe to do so.
- Send someone to meet and direct the Fire & Rescue Service to the fire.
- Prepare to evacuate livestock should the fire spread.
- Prepare to use farm machinery to assist the Fire & Rescue Service.



See over for farm fire safety advice...